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SECURITY INFORMATION

19 March 1953

BRIEF: KgU BOGUS STAMP OPERATION

The Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit has initiated a bogus stamp operation* for the purpose of psychological warfare harassment. 5,000 bogus stamps have been printed with the size, color scheme, and pattern similar to the 24 pfennig GDR stamp. However, the KgU version shows Wilhelm Pieck, President of the GDR, with a hangman's rope around his neck, and carries the legend, "Undeutsche, undemokratische Diktatur", (un-German, undemocratic, dictatorship).

As a test operation, 15 letters bearing these stamps, were mailed in East Berlin by Soviet Zone co-workers. 6 letters have been received to date in West Berlin.** A mailing operation followed: 1200 letters have been sent through GDR postal channels to SED functionaries who reportedly originated the action committee to save Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. When the remaining 3800 stamps have been utilized, the KgU plans to release the story to the press. The KgU expects a considerable amount of publicity will follow and a strong reaction in the GDR, since the stamp clearly indicates its anti-Communist inspiration.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

* Att. A
** Att. B

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BRIEF: KgU GENOSSE ROTLAUF OPERATION

During the Berlin "Gruene Woche", 30 January - 8 February 1953, a period during which many East Zone farmers visited West Berlin, the Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit distributed a leaflet* especially designed to appeal to a farm audience. The leaflet created a character, Genosse Rotlauf, (Comrade Erysipelas, - erysipelas or red murrain is a particularly ugly disease which afflicts pigs) who is quoted as issuing the promises and slogans used by GDR officials in their frenetic efforts to persuade Soviet Zone farmers to join the Production Co-operatives. The KgU then answers each of the various GDR slogans in simple but effective language. The leaflet was printed in 100,000 copies and distributed during the "Gruene Woche" in the exhibition area.

As a supplement to the leaflet operation, the KgU issued a press release** which stated that according to information received by the KgU, the SSD had ordered all Bürgermeisters of East Zone villages to report all farmers absent from their homes during the "Gruene Woche" to the local SSD office. Furthermore, the SSD reportedly sent groups of examiners to the "Gruene Woche" with instructions to spy upon the visiting farmers.

To make Genosse Rotlauf a more vivid and effective propaganda device, the KgU has submitted suggestions for a drawing of this figure and his most noticeable features.*** The drawings symbolize the voracity, suspicion, and subserviance to Stalinism which characterize the Communist regime in the Soviet Zone. The figure is visualized as composed of the following parts:

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1) the spy's ear (das Spitzelohr); 2) the snooper's snout (die Schnusffel-schnaue); 3) the Stalin-memorial mustache (der Stalingedächtnisbart); 4) the evil eye (der Stechblick); 5) the cap a la Ivan (die Mustze, Modell Iwan). The symbol of Genosse Rotlauf could occupy a prominent place on leaflets, pamphlets, and stickers distributed in East Germany.

* Att. A
** Att. B
*** Att. C

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